

# STATE OF WASHINGTON PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION

#### MICHAEL P. SELLARS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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## **MINUTES**

January 11, 2022

The regular meeting of the Public Employment Relations Commission was held at 10:01 a.m. via Zoom

Those present and participating:
Marilyn Glenn Sayan, Chairperson
Mark R. Busto, Commissioner
Kenneth J. Pedersen, Commissioner
Mike Sellars, Executive Director
Charity Atchison, Appeals Administrator
Chris Casillas, Labor Relations Adjudicator/Mediator
Dario de la Rosa, Unfair Labor Practice/Representation Administrator
Dianne Ramerman, Field Services Manager
Vanessa Smith, Confidential Secretary

## Also present:

Matt Greer, PERC, Labor Relations Adjudicator/Mediator
Lisa Hartrich, PERC, Field Services Manager
Kristin Lamson, Office of the Attorney General
Liz McDonald, PERC, Extern
Joye Rolfer, PERC, Communications Consultant
Jamie Siegel, PERC, Labor Relations Adjudicator/Mediator
Katie Sypher, PERC, Labor Relations Adjudicator/Mediator
Emily Whitney, PERC, Unfair Labor Practice/Representation Administrator

## **Minutes of the Previous Meetings**

The minutes of the previous meetings held on November 9 and December 10, 2021, were adopted as presented.

## **Report of the Executive Director**

1. Last year ended with a higher case volume than 2020. More cases were filed in the second half of 2021, and filings were spread across all case types. We will see how the COVID omicron variant impacts filings.

- 2. State agencies have received notice from the Governor's office that any return-to-office plans should occur no sooner than March 15, 2022. We will continue to monitor whether that date is feasible.
- 3. Liz McDonald is joining us as an extern from Seattle University. She will report to Charity.
- 4. Mike met with the Clientele Consultation Committee last month. The bulk of the meeting was spent discussing updates on the rules process. The next meeting will be scheduled for May or June.
- 5. The Negotiation Project, originally launched in late 2020 and spearheaded by Chris Casillas and Emily Martin, was expanded to include lunch & learn sessions through 2021. This month, we will launch the PERColator podcast. Mike expressed appreciation for the great work done by Chris Casillas, Emily Martin, and Matt Greer.
- 6. The legislative session started on January 10. It is a short, 60-day session.

## **Legislative Update**

Charity gave an overview of legislation that PERC has been monitoring.

## **Court Docket**

Charity reviewed the pending court cases and provided updated information where available. A list of pending Commission cases that have been appealed to court is available on the agency website.

## **Consideration of Dispute Resolution Panel Applications**

The Commission considered the request of Amedeo Greco, an arbitrator previously on the Dispute Resolution Panel from 2001 to 2018, to be reappointed to the panel if he could hear only virtual hearings. After some discussion regarding the feasibility of this request, the Commission directed staff to prepare a letter informing Arbitrator Greco that PERC cannot accommodate the request but that he could revise his application to remove this limitation for the Commission's reconsideration.

#### **Discussion Re: Rules Revisions**

Dario de la Rosa went through the proposed changes to chapters 391-25 and 391-35 WAC. The Commission offered input, and Mike and the rules committee answered any questions surrounding the proposals.

## Adjournment

There being nothing further to come before the Commission, the public meeting was adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

APPROVED this 8th day of February, 2022.

PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION

MARILYN GLENN SAXAN, Chairperson

MARK R. BUSTO, Commissioner

KENNETH J. PEDERSEN, Commissioner